

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 IO-13 /059 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4304

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR WB UK UR US FRA

SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS

SUMMARY. DOCTORS HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT HESS BE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR TESTS. MISSION HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION INDICATING HESS HAS SUFFERED DETERIORATION HIS HEALTH. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR HESS TO BE TAKEN TO BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL ON MONDAY, MARCH 28. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT SPANDAU DOCTORS REPRESENTING THE FOUR POWERS MET MORNING THURSDAY, MARCH 25, TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THEIR EXAMINATIONS OF HESS. WHILE WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED MINUTES OF MEETING, WE UNDERSTAND THAT DOCTORS CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EXAMINE HESS AT BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL. APPARENTLY, THEY WISH TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER TESTS TO ASSIST THEM IN TREATING HESS' STOMACH DISORDERS. HESS' COMPLAINTS OF STOMACH DISORDERS ARE OF LONG STANDING.

2. SPANDAU GOVERNORS MET BRIEFLY THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO
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CONSIDER DOCTORS' RECOMMENDATION. UK GOVERNOR (MARSHALL) URGED QUICK COMPLIANCE WITH REQUEST. AT A SUBSEQUENT FRIDAY MORNING MEETING, GOVERNORS AGREED TO THE HOSPITAL VISIT. VIRTUALLY IMMEDIATELY MARSHALL LAID OUT THE PLAN FOR THE VISIT. THOUGH PLAN PARALLELS PLAN USED IN HESS' 1973 HOSPITAL VISIT, OTHER GOVERNORS WERE SURPRISED BY RAPIDITY OF BRITISH OFFICIAL RESPONSE

AND PREPAREDNESS.

3. HESS WILL BE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL ABOUT 9:00 A.M. MONDAY MORNING AND RETURNED TO SPANDAU AT ABOUT 4:00 P.M. THAT EVENING. IT IS ANTICIPATED ALL NECESSARY TESTS CAN BE DONE IN THAT TIME. WHILE THE FOUR DOCTORS WILL ACCOMPANY HESS, THE BRITISH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL SECURITY, AS THE PRISON AND THE HOSPITAL ARE IN THE BRITISH SECTOR.

4. COMMENT. THE RAPIDITY OF SOVIET CONCURRENCE MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO (A) THE GENERALLY COOPERATIVE NATURE OF THE CURRENT SOVIET DIRECTOR (BOBOVNIKOV) AND (B) SOVIETP RECOGNITION THAT CRITICISM OF THE FOUR POWERS ON MEDICAL TREATMENT GIVEN HESS MAY BE LESSENERED, ONCE WORD OF HOSPITAL TRIP LEAKS TO THE PRESS. HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE DOCTORS' RECOMMENDATION WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE TESTS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED IN ORDER TO ASSIST IN ONGOING TREATMENT.

5. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT WITHOUT SKEPTICISM THAT THE BRITISH ARE SO EFFICIENT THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO ARRANGE BY FRIDAY ALL THE LOGISTICS NECESSARY, IF THEY WERE ONLY INFORMED OF THE RECOMMENDATION ON THURSDAY. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE BRITISH DOCTOR MAY HAVE ADVISED UKBER THAT A HOSPITAL VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL AND UKBER JUMPED ON THE IDEA BECAUSE OF THE BRITISH DOMESTIC ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO MR. HESS. THEN AGAIN, IT COULD HAVE BEEN VICE VERSA. END COMMENT. GEORGE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, FR, (HESS, RUDOLF)
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